

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 911

By Johnson P

A RESOLUTION recognizing Reverend Franklin "Jack" Mraz.

WHEREAS, from time to time, this General Assembly find it appropriate to pause in its deliberations so that it may properly recognize those individuals who have dedicated their lives to serving God and, in their ministries, have offered love, guidance, peace, and understanding to those in need; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Franklin "Jack" Mraz is one such individual, and his many good works during his years of service to the Lord are worthy of the commendation of this Body; and

WHEREAS, born in 1931 in Cleveland, Ohio, Jack Mraz attended and graduated from Willoughby High School, where he lettered in varsity football; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Mraz rendered valiant service as a member of the United States Army while stationed in Korea during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, upon his return stateside, Jack Mraz attended Scarritt College and Vanderbilt Divinity School where, in addition to his ministerial studies, he earned master's degrees in Evangelism and Christian Education; and

WHEREAS, ordained as a Deacon in 1962 and as an Elder in 1968, the Reverend Mraz was the long-standing Senior Pastor of The United Methodist Church in Ashland City until retiring from the full-time ministry in 1998, whereupon he served as the Supply Pastor of The Scottsboro United Methodist Church until his second retirement this past June; and

WHEREAS, Brother Jack expresses his profound faith through his many works in the community, and his dedication to living each day to its utmost has provided those around him a shining example of a true man of God; and

WHEREAS, a natural leader, the Reverend Mraz serves as the Ecumenical Administrator of the Tennessee Association of Churches and has often been asked to speak at various conferences. He has rendered sterling service as the Chair of VISION 2000 and participated in various councils on evangelism and ministries during annual conferences; lent his considerations and thoughts as the keynote speaker during the United Methodist Women Conference, the Adult Banquet of the United Methodist Men Conference, and the Kern Camp Meeting of the Tennessee Conference; and participated on the national level as a Growth Plus Consultant, a Volunteer in Mission, a National New Life Missioner, a National Key Event Herald, the Emmaus Walk Spiritual Director, and a VISION 2000 Consultant; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Brother Jack Mraz was named as the 1992 Ecumenist of the Year and the 1996 Warren Award winner by the Tennessee Conference of The United Methodist Church, awards which recognized his work in promoting Christian unity and his labors in VISION 2000; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Mraz has long been an unwavering source of strength for the people of Cheatham County, a foundation built upon rock upon which they could always depend, and he derives that strength and courage both from God and from the love of his wife, Shirley Mraz, his childhood sweetheart whom he married on June 29, 1951; and

WHEREAS, Jack and Shirley Mraz's marriage bore the fruit of three sons, Gary, the late Mark, and Tim; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Mraz serves as an inspiration to all he meets, and his many years of service to his flock, his community, and the good people of Tennessee have garnered the appreciation of members of this General Assembly; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and recognize the Reverend Franklin "Jack" Mraz for his many years of Christian service to the Methodist church, the people of Cheatham County, and the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

